



STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 76 MARCH 1973

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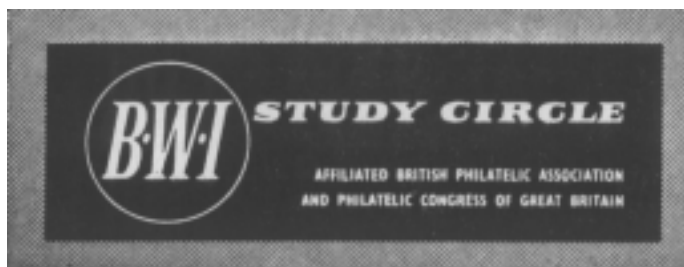
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of:

ANTIGUA • BAHAMAS • BARBADOS
BERMUDA • BRITISH GUIANA • BRITISH
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TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS • VIRGIN ISLANDS

2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1.50 or the equivalent in local currency, due 15th February. If remitting in currency please add 40c to cover collection charges. Alternatively a draft for £1.50 DRAWN on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

PROGRAMME, 1973

Mar. 1st, 6 p.m. - Mr. R. H. Austin - Bahamas.

April 14th, 3 p.m. - Annual General Meeting.

The January and April meetings will be held at the "Large Oak Room," National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

The March meeting will be held at "The George" public house, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

The April meeting will be held at the "Large Oak Room" National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

DISPLAY

Owing to the Study Circle receiving a very short notice from the British Philatelic Association that its offices, at 446 Strand, London, W.C.2, were to be vacated it was not possible to notify members of the change of venue of the mid-week Meeting held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th November, 1972, except by word of mouth on chance meetings. However, nine members including Dr. James Kyle, of Aberdeen, who happened to be in London on the right day met at The George Public House, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

Some members brought pages from their collections which are summarised below, the emphasis being on Bermuda and Tobago:-

Mr. S. Goldblatt. His Bermuda comprised a used selection of the Victorian De La Rue printings, followed by numeral postmarks including duplex marks some of which are rare and also a variety of circular date stamps. In Tobago he showed first of all a straight run of issues, unused and used. Mr. Goldblatt stated that the 6d. SG.19 is scarce and in the 4d. value No. 60 on the sheet shows the malformed 'CE' as in Dominica. There was also shown a range of cancellations including some circular date stamps, also fiscals.

Mr. A. H. Latham. First, an entire letter dated 21st July, 1845, from Jamaica to Bermuda and then two covers from Trinidad dated 9th August, 1873, and 17th January, 1891, with Missent to/ Jamaica and Missent to/ Jamaica B.W.I. respectively which marks are very rare prior to 1900. Finally an entire letter of 1692 from James Wale to Richard Ruding stated to contain the only surviving eye witness account of the destruction of Port Royal by earthquake.

Mr. C. A. Freeland. A fine selection of early Cancellations of Bermuda, followed by various shades of the 1d. Crown CA watermark mint. Also some King George V 2/6d. and King George VI 2/6d. and 5/- values with constant flaws and the 12/6d. mint and used showing shades. Mr. Freeland also showed some early Tobago including an imperforate plate proof in grey of the Four Pence with malformed 'CE.'

Mr. B. B. Benwell. One item only being a postcard dated 1st December, 1914, from Barbados to England with two ½d. stamps and one fraction Barbados Belgian Relief Charity Label in dark blue.

Mr. L. E. Britnor. Showed a framed map of about 1845 of the Caribbean islands with an inset view of Kingston, Jamaica, from the Commercial Rooms.

Another mid-week meeting was held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th January, 1973, in the Large Oak Room at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1. Fourteen members and two visitors were welcomed by Mr. E. V. Toeg and there were displays of up to nine pages from any West Indies country. A summary of the items shown now follows:-

MISS B. J. COLLINSON. First a map of Barbados showing the island divided up into eleven Parishes. This was followed by examples of the Parish numbers in bars obliterators, bootheel cancellations and Parish circular date stamps. A number of photographs were handed round of the island's early post offices, several of which have been rebuilt since the photographs were taken about twenty years ago.

Mr. B. B. BENWELL. Passed round three early covers from Barbados, the first one being a letter dated 29th August, 1657, which had no postal markings. Then came a letter dated 6th January, 1766, handstamped "BARBADOES" and finally a letter dated 22nd February, 1762, with a two line mark "BARBA/DOES."

Mr. E. V. TOEG. Showed die proofs of most of the value tablets of the 1922-29 set of Montserrat and also the corresponding specimen stamps of this set including some values overprinted locally which are not generally known about. Finally used examples on and off piece of all values of this same set were passed round.

Mr. S. GOLDBLATT. Displayed Barbados, including examples of the eleven Parish numbers in bars obliterators, the eleven Parish bootheel obliterators and some Parish circular date stamps. He also exhibited stamps from the 1912-16 set overprinted "Revenue" and some values from the Victory set on blued paper. Then followed numerous picture postcards sent in the early part of the present century from all over the West Indies. Finally airmail items from Lindberg's famous flight in September, 1929, through the Caribbean to the South American mainland and back.

Dr. D. WOOLFSON. Exhibited a strong selection of modern Jamaica local covers with free franks, several covers having boxed slogans of local interest. Then he displayed the Jamaica Queen Victoria 2½d. provisional surcharge on 4d. red-brown mint and used including a double surcharge. Finally a page of West Indies PAQUEBOT markings mostly from Barbados.

Mr. J. L. MESSENGER. Exhibited six examples of the Barbados Parish numbers in bars obliterators with three slightly differing designs of No. 1 and followed with a number of examples of the various Parish numbers obliterators on single stamps and covers. He then showed a selection of bootheel Parish numbers obliterators " 1 (G.P.O.

Bridgetown), 11 (St. Lucy), 5 (St. John), 8 (St. Thomas), 9 (St. Andrew), 10 (St. Peter), 2 (Christchurch), 3 (St. Philip) and 4 (St. George).

Mr. J. A. C. FARMER. Displayed a very strong selection of King George V high values of Bermuda from 2/- to £1 consisting of singles and blocks of four with several items showing constant plate flaws.

Mr. A. H. LATHAM. Showed from his Jamaica with a selection chiefly of the 1d. Llandovery Falls with Railway Town circular date stamps of which there are four types with nine stations. He also displayed a boxed T.P.O. and a boxed MYRTLE BANK. JAMAICA with date in centre, both marks being made with temporary rubber date stamps. Then examples of Jamaica stamps used in the Cayman Islands marked by a double oval rubber handstamp with GRAND CAYMAN POST OFFICE and date in centre followed finally by examples of the violet oval registration mark applied at Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. C. A. FREELAND. Exhibited a cover from St. Vincent with a large fleuron dated 14th December, 1820, and an 1859 cover with the St. Vincent Crowned Circle. He then showed a selection of the early St. Vincent stamps mint including the 1881 1d. drab following with two pages of village marks. Mr. Freeland also showed a De La Rue Queen Victoria 1/- in black, stated to be a plate proof, and three colour trials of the 1/- King Edward VII Key plate type, followed finally by a selection of specimen stamps.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

With reference to the announcement in the last Bulletin regarding the "History of the Sailing Packets to the British West Indies" by L. E. Britnor, subject to no substantial alteration in exchange rates, I am expecting that this book will be available for sale during the Autumn of 1973 at the prices mentioned below which include packing and postage as follows:

Home members ordering and remitting by the 30th June, 1973,
price £4.75.

Home Members ordering and remitting on or after the 1st July, 1973,
price £5.50.

Overseas Members ordering and remitting by the 30th June, 1973, price £5.00 or
US \$12.50.

Overseas Members ordering and remitting on or after the 1st July, 1973, price £5.75
or US \$14.75.

Home Members should make cheques or Postal Orders payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle."

Overseas Members if paying the equivalent in local currency please add 50c to cover collection charges or alternatively a draft drawn on London is preferred.

Please complete the enclosed Order Form and send it to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. I. P. Chard, either with the appropriate remittance or notify Mr. I. P. Chard that you have arranged for a draft in sterling drawn on London to be sent to him in payment.

E. V. Toeg

ANTIGUA

ENGLISH HARBOUR

I appreciate the welcome remarks of Mr. Goldblatt, appearing in the September, 1972 *Bulletin*, in which he comments on my Antigua St. Paul's Parish postal history notes published in the *Bulletin* for March, 1972. It is very gratifying to read analyses such as Mr. Goldblatt's; they help to clarify my own files on the subject, and they open the door to further investigation which cannot be described as other than stimulating and beneficial. Mr. Goldblatt will recall that, on Page 5 of the March *Bulletin*, I stated that my primary reason for producing that article was to put in chart form all bits of English Harbour/St. Paul's Parish philatelic data which I have seen that has been previously published in certain documents, including our own *Bulletin*. Therefore, I must make the point quite clear that all data specified in the Key of that March article already has appeared elsewhere in philatelic or other journals as a matter of record. There were, I admit, some inferences printed at the end of my discussion (after Key Item 33) which were strictly mine, and I clearly identify them now as being only a summary of my own opinions.

Mr. Goldblatt refers to the excellent article by Mr. Proud in the February, 1972 issue of *Postal History International*. The proper correlation of the illustrations in the Proud discussion with my terminology in the March *Bulletin* is as follows:

On page 60 of the September *Bulletin*, under (2), Mr. Goldblatt refers to "the unenclosed c.d.s. (second mark illustrated and, presumably, Mr. Bowman's first type) . . ." This is not my first type: this is Robson Lowe Type PN. Similarly, under (4) of his remarks, "the single ring c.d.s. (fourth illustration and, presumably, Mr. Bowman's second type) . . ." is not my second type. This mark is my *first* type, the c.d.s. having ANTIGUA at the top, ENGLISH HARBOUR at the bottom, a Code Letter A, and a two-line date. My terminology in these cases is based on that used by Mr. V. N. F. Surtees, our member in Shropshire, whose comments I quote from Whole Number (W/N) 21 of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* (BCPJ):

"English Harbour A-18 - I have a cover SG 21 plus a pair SG 25 cancelled A-18 plus CDS •• Antigua" at top, "English Harbour" at bottom dated 1886. I also have a single SG 16 with the same CDS, dated JU 25 81, without A-18. Have also a piece SG 42 and 54 with the other type of this CDS (no 1-18) dated AU 17 21. This CDS has English Harbour at top and Antigua at bottom and I think shows that this type was the later of the two and I believe Dr. Urwick had a cover showing its use with A-18."

Furthermore, in an earlier article (BCPJ W/N 8) in which he tabulates Antigua circular date stamps, Mr. Surtees lists, under English Harbour:

- "(A) Antigua at top, English Harbour at bottom, opened ? ended ?
- (B) English Harbour at top, Antigua at bottom, opened ? ended 31 Dec. 1931."

I have never seen an example of this later c.d.s. which Surtees describes above as (B) and I have described as "second type English Harbour c.d.s. without A-18." This, of course, is the mark identified in my March *Bulletin* chart as in use from 1921 to 1932. I hope that Mr. Goldblatt will now understand my reason for referring to this 20th century c.d.s. as a separate type: The words English Harbour are at the top, and the word Antigua is at the bottom. In the first type (Proud illustration 4) the positions of these words are reversed.

Mr. Goldblatt offers the opinion that St. Paul's and Bethesda were one and the same office, whereas I have suggested that the St. Paul's c.d.s. was used at English Harbour. In my article in *BCPJ* W/N 56 I, too, had entertained the St. Paul's/Bethesda pairing, but in a later *BCPJ* writeup (in W/N 59) I explained my reason for finally adopting the theory, however tenuous it may appear, that the St. Paul's/English Harbour matchup is more logical. I respectfully refer Mr. Goldblatt to these articles.

Mr. Goldblatt's suggestion that a personal query of elderly inhabitants of the island might be made to clarify early sub-post office activity is a very good one. The problem here is, naturally, that some dedicated person would have to go to Antigua and spend quite a lot of time in doing it. When I was there in 1970, I talked with the sub-post mistress at Parham, Miss Ise Simon, who could remember that in 1912 the SPO was moved to its present location from "up the street a bit" and that a hurricane had destroyed the building in 1950, when it was rebuilt as the existing structure. I must confess, though, that in my experience many of the inhabitants of the island don't remember much in the way of early 20th century postal affairs, and even if they do, many of them don't even wish to discuss it. I couldn't find anyone in Newfield, for example, who said they had ever heard of the post office there, a sub-post office which is recorded as having closed in 1932!

Finally, I must point out a typographical error appearing on Page 10 of the March *Bulletin*. The phrase "In BCPJ No. 11 . . ." should read "In BCPJ No. 21 . . ."

George W. Bowman.

In referring to the above article on English Harbour postmarks by George Bowman - I really have nothing to add to what he writes except to draw attention to his quotations from previous articles of mine.

I have checked Dr. Urwick's cover from the sale catalogue of Robson Lowe for Oct. 67, 1964, Lot 67 and photo. This has "English Harbour" at bottom and "Antigua" at top 1885. Also regarding my singles and small pieces - these are likely to have either A. 18 or the c.d.s. and not both. On covers it seems A.18 goes on the stamp and the c.d.s. on the cover, as in mine and Urwick's.

V. N. F. Surtees

ANTIGUA 19th CENTURY SHIP LETTERS

(Reprinted from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* by kind permission of its Editor)

The discovery of another part of the Tudway correspondence from Antigua to Great Britain in the nineteenth century gives one the opportunity to make some observations on the way mail was carried outside the packet service from the West Indies in the nineteenth century.

"*The Codrington Correspondence*" showed that the bulk of these letters of the same period were sent by packet and only a comparatively few (about 8%) were carried by private ship and about three per cent by warships. The Tudway Correspondence. In some hundred letters of this period over ninety per cent were carried by private vessels and very few by warships.

As in some cases the writers were the same, one must presume the Codringtons instructed their correspondents to send their letters by packet with copies preferably by warships or alternatively by private ships. As the postage rate was cheaper by private ship, one would expect this to be the popular method in the absence of definite instructions.

Fortunately it was often the custom to write the name of ship and sometimes that of the master in the lower left hand corner, so in a run of correspondence one is able to trace a number of voyages of one particular ship.

For instance, there are letters carried on six different voyages of the *Glaphyra* and the *Jamaica* (Capt. Lowell), five different voyages of the *Codrington* (Capts. Hill and Gaynes) and the *Kingston* (Capt. T. W. Pearson) and three of the *Emerald*. With names like the *Kingston* and the *Jamaica* the thought arises that they had the same owner.

The earliest date noted for a letter carried by the *Glaphyra* is June 1833 when fifty days elapsed between the day when the letter was written and the day the letter passed through London. There is no date showing when the ship sailed but in 1834 letters dated 22nd August and 19th October by this ship show that she must have made the round trip in under sixty days. Of the six voyages which have been noted, the *Glaphyra* left her mail at the ports of Penzance, Portsmouth, Deal and three times at Dover. In those days a ship's captain was duty bound to hand his mail into the post office where he made his first landfall. Bearing in mind the necessity that may arise for fresh provisions and water on such voyages, the popularity of Dover probably lay in the fact that the postal service ran several times a day to London and a master could let his owners know of his arrival so that nearly a day would elapse before he anchored in the Thames and was ready for his cargo to be unloaded.

The master of the *Jamaica* had other ideas for between 1826 and 1840 he dropped his mail at Plymouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, Eastbourne, Hastings and Deal. One letter written in Antigua on 15th April, 1840 passed through London on 19th May and only one other letter carried by the *Lotus* in 1843 provides evidence of a five week journey.

The *Kingston*, whose first journey is noted in March, 1833, dropped her mail at Kingsbridge, Hastings, Deal and twice at Dover.

The *Codrington*, whose home port was Bristol, usually took her cargo to London, for her mail is marked at Bristol on only one occasion, others being Kingsbridge, Dover, Deal and Margate.

In looking at the variety of ship letters in the new find and the *Codrington* Correspondence in seventy-eight letters, twelve were landed at Bristol, eleven at Dover, eight each at Liverpool and Portsmouth, six at Deal, five at Falmouth, four at Margate, three each at Kingsbridge and Plymouth, two each at Folkestone, Hastings, London, Seaford for Lewes and Weymouth. There was only one for Brighton, Eastbourne, Gravesend, Penzance, Port Glasgow (the only Scot), Romney, Southampton and Torquay. This gives one an idea of the comparative rarity of the various ports of this period on letters from the West Indies. Of course, letters from Asia, Australia and Africa as well as North America would show quite different results.

While most of these trading ships had their home port in London, there were two other great ports which had their own merchant fleets serving the West Indies.

Bristol and Liverpool had been the great ports during the period of the slave trade, and there had been great rivalry between them. Their ships had made the triangular run, first to West Africa for slaves, then to the West Indies where their human cargo was sold, and then the last leg home with the molasses, sugar and rum.

From this correspondence one can deduce the following vessels, most barques or brigatines, had **Bristol** owners. The *Appollo* 1821, the *Antigua Planter* 1834. A Captain Cherry appears as the master of the *Hercules* 1839. The *Thomas Daniele* (possibly the name of the owner) 1840 and the *Lucy* 1841-42. There was the *Eliza* (Capt. Harris) 1839, probably the successor of the *Frances and Eliza* (Capt. Hofman) which was covering the same route in the last decade of the eighteenth century. The *Lotus* (Capt. Head) 1843 was another barque and the *Codrington* (Capt. Gaynes) has already been mentioned.

While it was the custom to mention the captain's name on letters carried by the Bristol ships, it is rarely found on letters carried by ships of the **Liverpool** fleet. Among the Tudway letters that were carried to this port were the *Grace* 1829, the *Deniston* 1833-42, the *Isabel* 1839, the *Brigand* and the *Phoenix* 1840.

There are four unusual features on the letters arriving in England that merit mention.

A letter dated 20th June 1826 carried on the *Codrington* was endorsed on arrival at Bristol "*sea postage 2/-*" unusual because this term is normally only found written on letters in Asia or Australia to differentiate between land and sea charges. Also the 2/- charge was a packet rate and not a ship letter rate.

The mail carried by the *Miranda* which passed through London on 25th August, 1836 was landed at the small port of Seaford and then taken by road to Lewes where the Ship Letter handstamp was applied.

The letters carried by the *Ann Gales* which left Antigua in mid-May 1837 were erroneously handstamped in red INDIA LETTER PORTSMOUTH.

The letters carried on the packet which left Antigua in mid-October, 1840, arriving in London on 28th November, were both marked "*Missent to London.*" This is curious

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1972

INCOME

1971		1972
214.70	Advertisers	214.75
43.65	Bulletins (sale of back issues)	23.55
11.25	'CORDEX' Binders	4.50
1.84	Donations	5.36
2.03	Opinion Fees	2.00
373.11	Subscriptions	396.70
18.00	Subscriptions paid in advance	25.50
1.38	Sundry receipts	1.00
323.53	Cash at Bank	309.38
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		982.74
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		989.49
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PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

		£
1.85	Sale of Paper No.4	19.27
168.45	Cash at Bank as at 31.12.70	170.30
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		£189.57
		<hr/>
		£170.30
		<hr/>

I have examined the above Statement of Accounts and certify it to be correct and in accordance with the Books and Vouchers produced to me.

Signed

January 13th, 1973

Hon. Auditor

A J. BRANSTON,

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1972

EXPENDITURE

1971		1972
4.50	Advertising	6.00
8.46	Bank Charges	9.00
21.76	Books and Periodicals	12.71
17.92	Entertainment, hire of Meeting Room, etc.	18.62
10.00	Insurance	10.00
84.68	Postage	95.56
-	Presentation to P.Saunders	25.00
427.62	Printing and blocks	521.54
59.48	Stationery	42.62
9.30	Subscriptions	6.90
9.00	Subscriptions (members refunded)	3.00
8.36	Sundries	9.92
19.03	Telephone	14.13
309.38	Cash at Bank	206.74
<u>989.49</u>		<u>982.74</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

<u>£170.30</u>	Cash at Bank	<u>£189.57</u>
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PHILIP T. SAUNDERS,
Hon. Treasurer.

as all the other letters carried by packet and addressed to one of the Tudway family at Wells, Somerset, also passed through London.

* * *

The sixty-four letters written in the nineteenth century comprise letters from three of the successive managers of the Tudway plantations, Parham Old Work and Parham Lodge. The first of these was **George W. Ottley**, whose name appears in "The Codrington Correspondence" and while obviously manager of Parham Lodge estate, also served the Codringtons in 1807 as attorney. Here are ten more of his letters written between 22nd September, 1808 and 18th June, 1835. One letter over his signature is enclosed with a letter from his successor.

The second writer was **Jno. Freeland** and there are eighteen letters between 9th March, 1833 and 29th July, 1835. Freeland's letters are numbered from 187 to 235 so there are thirty-one missing numbers; perhaps these and the first 186 will turn up later.

The third writer was **T. D. Foote** from whom there are 37 documents, twenty-six are printed forms with full details of the monthly costs and production of one or other estates. These give a remarkable and intimate view of a West Indian plantation of the period.

* * *

Another interesting aspect of this correspondence is that the twelve letters which had bills of lading enclosed still contain the original enclosures. Obviously neither Freeland nor Foote knew of the privilege "*Consignee's Letter*" by which a shipper of goods (in this case hogsheads of Muscoradro sugar and puncheons of rum) on a private vessel could send his letters relating to the goods carried on that vessel free of postal charge. There are six of these letters where the enclosed bills of lading refer to goods carried on the vessel which carried the mail. The dates range from 26th April, 1835 to 31st August, 1841 on the *Jamaica* (twice), *Clorinda*, *Ann Gales*, *Glaphyra*, *Tobago* and *Steadfast*. In the Codrington correspondence there were several examples of these privilege letters.

From July, 1836 many of the communications were on printed forms "*Return of Work and Transactions on Parham Old Work (or New Work) Estate*" with sections showing Wages paid, Canes and Ratoons for Next Crop, Canes and Ratoons cut, Sugar Made, Rum Made, Molasses Made, Produce sent from Estate, Articles Received on Estate, Live Stock Account, Salaried Servants, Weather during the Month. These details and the contents of the letters are another story. *Lowe, Robson*

As a member of the Royal Philatelic Society I am undertaking a study of the postage stamps, particularly modern issues, of the British West Indies with a view to evaluating the educational potential of philately. My chief interests are: the picture on the stamp and the reason for its issue. The issues that are demanding my immediate attention are the buildings on the stamps of Antigua. I have had a lot of difficulty in obtaining details about the following buildings:

- (a) The Old Post Office, St. John's.
- (b) Martello Towers,
- (c) Officers' Quarters, Shirley Heights
- (d) Government House, Barbuda.
- (e) Clarence House.
- (f) Government Building, St. John's.

If any member has any information that might be of help could he please contact me direct. I undertake to return any photographs that are loaned.

Although I am principally interested in the issues of Antigua, I would be grateful to have the opportunity to collate information on other former colonies.

Geoffrey Moir

37 Kingscote Road,
Croydon,
CRO 7DP

Pursuant to A. Thompson's query in Bulletin 73 and E. V. Toeg's comment in Bulletin 74, I should like to comment further relative to the first Antigua Victorian watermarks. The Perkins, Bacon & Co. "Small Star" watermarked paper has five lines around the border of the star field, according to a four star horizontal by four star vertical sheet corner of the paper in my collection. No "inscription" watermark appears on this piece. However, on a used copy of S.G. 7, I find the five line border (viewed from front of stamp) at right, with letter "P" interrupting at right bottom the upper four lines and surmounting the bottom line. This would seem to be a right marginal copy from the particular sheet. It is unclear whether sheets of the small star paper had "inscriptions" at top/bottom or left/right or both. It is also unclear whether the word "POSTAGE" faced the stars with head or feet of letters.

William G. Cornell

BARBADOS

Browsing through back numbers, I notice that none of us has followed up Mr. Benwell's enquiry in Bulletin No. 60, page 3, inviting early or late dates for the c.d.s. type C.2.

The following extensions can be made to his list from copies in my possession:

No. 2: 9.11.83

No. 4: 13.1.85.24.8.86

No. 5: 29.3.84

No. 7: 11.8.86

No. 10: 5.8.81 (on S.G.72)

All the above are on the issues of April, 1882, except as stated. Presumably other members can carry the story back to late 1883, or forward to late 1886 in the case of most numbers.

In addition to these, I have No. 2 struck on S.G.66, and I read the date as 12.9.74; the year is not absolutely clear, but this date is within the period of issue of the stamp.

When the crowned circle "PAID AT BARBADOES" handstamp is used as a cancellation, is this accident or design?

A copy in my hands has been struck quite neatly and centrally on S.G. 73/4; if it will help any Barbados specialist to date it more accurately, the shade is the rather uncommon, almost milky-blue, which I associate - probably quite wrongly - with the earliest printing.

If I were a better philatelist, I could no doubt tell at a glance whether my solitary unused example of S.G.196 (the 3/- value of the large seal series) is printed on the gummed side, or gummed on the printed side! Being cautious about unlisted 'varieties' I will assume that the gum was added after the printing.

But before we all condemn this stamp as a typical faker's whimsy, let me add two further bits of evidence -

- (i) the back of the stamp gives no indication of having borne gum, and
- (ii) the watermark is inverted and reversed.

It is the second point, of course, which alone lends any credence to this curiosity. I remain sceptical, but interested to hear from any member who owns or has at some time seen another copy which might have come from the same sheet.

Turning (without apology) to fiscal stamps, has anyone studied the "Revenue" overprints on the 1912 postal issues? Why are there so many different types of overprint? How does the overprint on S.G. 180 come to be in the precise violet shade of the printed stamp? Why was gold selected as the colour of overprint on S.G. 176?

I commend these issues to the collector of oddities. One could hardly find a more colourful and more illogical set in the whole of the pre-war stamps of the B.W.I.

Simon Goldblatt.

WHY NOT COLLECT BERMUDA?

(Continued from page 94 of Bulletin No. 75)

The Postal Surtax Act was passed and came into operation in May, 1918; it was designed to augment the revenue of the Colony, there being a penny surtax on every letter going outside the islands to which the rate of postage on letters was 1d. per ounce or fraction of an ounce. 1d. " Ship " type stamps were locally overprinted WAR TAX. The two words extended nearly the full width of each stamp so that, when being overprinted, careful positioning of the sheets of stamps was necessary to avoid part of one of the end letters of the overprint being omitted from the stamp. In the third printing of these War Tax stamps, early in 1920, the words forming the overprint were of a different, smaller type so the same precision of centring was no longer required.

Until 1918 Bermuda had no stamp of face value more than 1/- nor any stamp bearing the head of King George V. Higher value stamps were authorised in 1917 and, as a measure of economy during World War I, the design adopted was the large Nyasaland keyplate type: they were inscribed Postage and Revenue although, at the time, they were required more for purposes of revenue than postage. 2/6, 5-, 10/- and £1 values were issued in April, 1918, and 2/- and 4/- values were issued two months later, all printed on Multiple Crown CA paper. There was only one printing of each of the 2/-, 2/6 and 4/- values but two of the 10/- and three of the 5/-: however only minor varieties of shades of inks occur in them. The £1 remained in use for twenty years during which time several printings were made; these gave variations both in the colour of the purple ink and of the paper.

The first of the high value stamps to appear on paper watermarked Multiple Crown Script CA was the 10/-, in 1924; the 2/- and 2/6 values appeared three years later and stamps of a new value, 12/6, were issued in 1932. The 2/- appeared in three distinctive shades and the 2/6 in several shades of inks and of paper; of the 2/6 value the widest range of shades occurs in the red of the frame of the design, ranging from bright crimson-red to scarlet and orange vermillion. The appearance of some of the stamps gives the impression that the inks were oily though they have not affected the backs of the stamps. Several of these 2/6 values, each different, can make one or two very attractive and interesting pages in a collection. The 10/- and 12/6 values also had varieties in shades of inks and of paper.

It is recorded in history that the Legislative Assembly of Bermuda first met on the 1st August, 1620 and so it was not unnatural that tercentenary celebrations should be held in 1920, these to include a special issue of stamps. In March, 1920 the Governor forwarded his own suggestion for a design to the Crown Agents. Early in June, the Legislative Assembly informed the Governor that they had decided to commemorate the occasion by a special issue of stamps. He then advised them that he had already sketched a design and put forward an essay of his proposal, prepared by De La Rue at the request of the Crown Agents. The Assembly, however, did not agree with the design and so produced one of their own in which were incorporated the coat of arms of the colony, the sword of state and the Speakers gavel, emblems appropriate to the occasion.

Since the production of stamps based on the Governor's design had already progressed so far and since stamps of the design produced by the Assembly could not be ready for several more months it was decided to have two series of stamps for the occasion, one of each design. The 1d. and 2½d. values of stamps based on the Governor's design went on sale in November, 1920, the remaining seven values in January, 1921, all surface-printed. The stamps to the design approved by the Assembly were all issued in May, 1921; they were recess-printed.

Both these issues were printed at the time of change-over from paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA to that watermarked Multiple Crown Script CA and so some values in each series, though not the same values, appear on paper watermarked differently from the others. Only very minor shades occur except of the 1/- value of

both series; in these, there are shades of the colour of the paper. Most stamps of both issues are usually off centre but a patient search for centred copies can be quite rewarding!

In April, 1936, Bermuda issued a series of nine pictorial stamps, recess-printed; four of them showed a portrait of King George V and so were issued posthumously. The ½d., 2d., 6d., and 1/6 values, however, did not incorporate a portrait of him and remained in use throughout the reign of King George VI, though the 2d. value was in different colours. It is noteworthy that ten printings were made of the 6d., some of which show marked differences of shades of both the red and violet colours.

Pictorial stamps showing the head of King George VI were issued in January, 1938; these, together with the ½d., 2d., 6d. and 1/6 values just mentioned, completed the values required at the time. Some of the low value designs replaced the corresponding 1936 ones and, altogether, this was a very pleasing issue. Shades of every value are to be found. A new denomination, 7½d., also a pleasing design, was added late in 1941 to meet the air-mail rate to the United States and Canada, changed to 7½d. per half-ounce.

The King George VI high value stamps, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 12/6 and £1, were also issued in January, 1938. Except that the head of King George VI faced the opposite way, the stamps were of the same general design as those previously issued with the head of King George V. Stamps of the first five values were printed on paper watermarked Multiple Crown Script CA whilst for the £1 value paper with the Multiple Crown CA was again used. Several printings of stamps of all values were made and varieties of shades of the inks used, of the papers on which they are printed and of the perforations make an attractive display. Some of the varieties occur because of the difficult conditions prevailing at the printers during war-time.

In December, 1940, the postal rate for local Christmas cards in unsealed envelopes was ½d., and because further supplies of ½d. stamps from Britain had been delayed, stocks of them in Bermuda became exhausted. Stamps of the 1d. value were surcharged HALF PENNY near the top and an x over the former value in each of the lower corners. There are three settings, established by vertical spacings, and several minor varieties. An unsealed cover showing the stamp having been used as intended and correctly dated is pleasing.

Bermuda issued three stamps of rather simple but neat design to commemorate the centenary of Postmaster Perot's stamp; although dated 1948 they were only put on sale in April, 1949.

Following the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, a new series of definitive stamps was issued, breaking away from previous styles and tradition; the fourteen different designs each incorporated a feature relating to Bermuda.

In the next few years Bermuda issued commemorative stamps for various reasons but the outstanding issue was of six stamps in 1959, the 350th anniversary of the landing of Admiral Sir George Somers and of the consequent settlement; the design depicts the Arms of King James I and Queen Elizabeth II and is very pleasing. How few of them one sees genuinely used on cover!

The next definitive issue was made in 1962, a series of seventeen different designs. They were printed by photogravure by Harrison and Sons; being sketchy in appearance, they were disappointing.

When decimal currency was introduced in 1970 they were surcharged, each with a new value. The surcharged series was only issued for five months before being superseded by a new definitive issue of sixteen stamps ("Flowers") still in general use.

Until now, Bermuda has limited its special commemorative issues to three or four per year: may it remain so! She has, of course, participated in omnibus issues but they, being of a general nature, have not been mentioned in this article.

Postmarks: There are plenty to look for in 19th century marks, bar cancellations, duplex cancellations and datestamps. 20th century marks are normally circular datestamps and an example from each of the present post offices is not difficult to find.

For a student of the Bermuda postal services, stamps and allied matter the standard works, Ludington's "Bermuda" and its Supplement are invaluable for reference.

J. C. Loach.

May I add to Mr. Goldblatt's contribution in Bulletin 71, page 79.

I understand that there are 14 offices on Bermuda:

Bailey's Bay
Crawl
Devonshire South
Flatts
Hamilton
Harrington Sound

Paget
Pembroke North
Perot P.O.
St. Georges
Somerset Bridge
Southampton

Mangrove Bay

Warwick
J. C. Loach.

GRENADA

CORRECTION

In the article by Mr. C. M. Payne on page 94, Bulletin No. 72, we incorrectly gave the date of the straight line hand stamp as 19th November, 1785. This should have been 19th March, 1785.

Ed.

SPECIMEN Overprints.- My apologies to Dr. Robert Towers for not recalling details given in December, 1966, Bulletin. With regard to S.G.47 2½d. on 8d. - I have both types of fraction - has any member seen a pair showing the two types? The 1d. S.G.40 is fairly common, but again may occur tete-beche; has this been seen?

JEFFRYES Forgery - Orange yellow Fiscal stamp - Has any member used copies, perf. 16, with values other than £2 and £5?

BELGIAN RELIEF Labels, 1916. I have a single copy of this unused, size 48 x 44mm, and have seen one copy used on a cover. Were these stamps issued tete-beche similar to the Red Cross Labels, and how many labels per sheet? The labels were rough perf. 11½ - probably litho printed, does anyone know where, please.

Bryan E. Johnson.

NEVIS

In writing of the postal fiscal stamps of Nevis (September, 1971, at p. 66), I missed a question mark in my notes, and so asserted as a fact that the printing and overprinting of the March, 1879, issue was done by De La Rue. The assertion has so far escaped the usually critical eyes of our members, but the question mark has recently come to light again, and I have done the investigation which I had previously intended to do.

There are a surprising number of points to consider. Among them are these:

(1) Nevis was one of only three British territories whose stamps were supplied by Nissen & Parker. The others were Virgin Islands and Hyderabad.

(2) In the case of Virgin Islands, the dies were handed over by Nissen & Parker to De La Rue in February, 1877, and proofs exist of their version of the 1d. green, S.G.22, dated (from recollection) a month later. In the case of Hyderabad, I have no information apart from the catalogue as to when Nissen & Parker were succeeded as suppliers by Bradbury Wilkinson.

(3) By late 1879 De La Rue were preparing stamps from their new Key type for both Nevis and Virgin Islands.

(4) The March, 1879, printing was in a totally different shade from the previous unoverprinted stamps, but was nevertheless on unwatermarked paper, perf. 15, as all but one of the previous lithographed issues had been.

(5) The Revenue printing is from a new transfer - or, more probably and accurately, two new transfers. Previous issues from Nissen & Parker had, however, usually involved the preparation of new transfers, these being laid down on each new occasion in a row of four panes, side by side. A similar procedure had been adopted for successive issues of the Virgin Islands 1d. green, perf. 15, except that it is doubtful whether there were more than two, or perhaps three, panes laid down side by side in the case of the latter.

(6) The consignment figures for the Revenue printing emanate from Maycock though I cannot trace any direct written statement by him of who the printers were. It was Maycock, too, who supplied figures for consignments to Nevis and Virgin Islands from 1866 onwards, and he must have had access at some time to Nissen & Parker's records.

(7) Next to be mentioned is an interview with the senior partner of the firm (by then known as Nissen & Arnold) of which an account appears in the Stamp News Annual for 1893, p. 52. He was asked directly, with reference to the Nevis transfers, whether De La Rue ever printed from the plates or transfers made by his firm. The answer was - "No, the odd plates were handed over by me direct to the Government, and at the time it was understood that they were not again to be used."

(8) This interview was cited by B.T. K. Smith in 1906 (Philatelic Record, Vol. 28, p. 10 and he asserted, "the plates are no longer in existence, having been destroyed."

(9) The above assertion was wrong, as we know; for, some 25 years later, Louis E. Bradbury produced the plates and presented them to the R.P.S., having first secured the printing in black of 50 souvenir sheets of each value, and then defaced the original plates.

(10) A little later Mr. Bradbury presented the original plate wrappings to the R.P.S. also: these included the original order for the 1876 consignment, written, if my memory

serves me, on a proof sheet.

The very last of these items is really the most conclusive, for the order must have been a Nissen & Parker document. It is not conceivable that De La Rue would have kept the former firm's wrappings, had they themselves used the plates for a further printing. I was therefore wrong in attributing the Revenue printing to De La Rue; it was done by Nissen & Parker.

There are still one or two points for further comment. One wonders, for instance, when and how the plates came into the possession of Mr. Bradbury - as far as I know, the reason has not been published. One notes too that, when the senior partner was interviewed; the questioner used the words "the plates or transfers made by your firm." Does this throw doubt on the traditional view that the plates were in fact engraved by J. Rapkin of Waterlow's? The questions and answers may, however, not have been taken down verbatim, though they appear to be. In any case, one would treat the answers with caution since Mr Nissen - if that is who it was - was speaking 14 years or more after the relevant events."

Simon Goldblatt

TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS

In his article of March, 1972, Mr. Challis gave a figure of 1800 as the quantity printed of S.G.108. Easton, from the De La Rue records, gives quite a different figure on p. 616 of his work: 4,860 for this stamp and 4,920 for the 3/- value, S.G.109. These latter quantities are more in line with my impression of the stamp's availability, but can Mr. Challis provide evidence for the alternative figure ?

Simon Goldblatt

Amongst some covers recently purchased I found one that looks as if it could be interesting and another that is beyond my knowledge. I wonder if any fellow members of the BWISC can help.

First there is a cover from Grand Turk to Barbados bearing a single copy of each of the 2d. and 3d. Victory Issue. It is postmarked 12 Dec. 46 (I think - it is very indistinct) but backstamped in Barbados 23 Dec 46. In the top left hand corner is typed "AIR MAIL via British West Indies Airways - Jamaica." It is also stamped with an unboxed Via AIR MAIL in violet measuring 58 x 6mm. It appears to be philatelic as the envelope is empty but is still sealed, so I wonder if this was used on a special occasion. Was this the correct postage rate for the period? Would the AIR MAIL cachet have been applied in Turks or perhaps Jamaica? If it only went by air from Jamaica when did Turks get its own air mail?

The second is an unused piece of postal stationery - a post-card also from Turks. It bears a printed stamp of the Victorian Key plate type in brown with, I think, the words "One penny halfpenny," but this has been obliterated by a black bar and the stamp overprinted 1d. How nice to have a reduction in postal rates! but can anyone say when this took place? Who did the overprinting? Was this a general rate for post cards at this time or was it only for use within, say, the West Indies area?

Mike Wilson

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

Our congratulations go to Mr. S. G. HOEY and Col. D. G. N. LLOYD-LOWLES who have both been elected Fellows of the Royal Society and to Mr. Ronald WARD who received a Bronze Silver at the B.P.E. for his book 'The Postal History of Upper Wharfedale, Ilkley and Otley.'

The total contributions to the Philip T. SAUNDERS Fund have amounted to £105.81.

I wish to draw your attention to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting which is to be held on April 14th. It is proposed to include a further item in the agenda this year, that is: whether or not a list of names and addresses of members should be published, if so how often and in what form - subject to members not objecting to their addresses being published. You will remember in my paragraph in December, 1972, that I drew to the attention of all members the decision of the committee to have names, interests and addresses published as a separate list once every two years. It has been felt by myself, and others, that this is a matter of such importance that the consent of the Annual General Meeting should be obtained before any action is taken. Any member who is unable to attend the meeting and who wishes to express any opinion upon the matter should write to me and I will ensure that their views are made known to the meeting.

I welcome some new members to the Circle, they are: Sir Peter Womersley, who lives in Sussex and who has an interest in the philately of the British West Indies as a whole; Mr. S. E. Eaton, a stamp dealer, of Bournemouth, Hants; Mr. James F. J. Johnston, of London, who specialises in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Mr. Geoffrey Douglas Moir, D.F.C., who is interested in educational research through philately.

Mr. Moir is particularly interested in the pictures on the stamps and the use to which they can be put in educational purposes and a request from him appears elsewhere in this issue. I hope that those of you who were able to attend enjoyed Stampex.

Ian Chard

PHILIP T. SAUNDERS FUND

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to those who so kindly contributed to the fund raised in appreciation of my founding and serving the Circle as Hon. Secretary for eighteen years. I was especially touched by the fact that the list includes names of some resident in the U.S.A., whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting personally and also a few home members who have been enrolled in recent years.

Philip T. Saunders

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